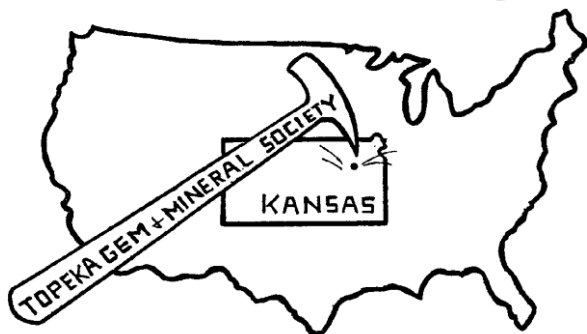


The Topeka Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.  
 1934 SW 30<sup>th</sup> St. Topeka, KS 66611  
 Rock2Plate@aol.com

# THE GLACIAL DRIFTER



[www.TopekaGMS.org](http://www.TopekaGMS.org) or  
 Facebook: Topeka Gem and Mineral Society Field Trips

The Topeka Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.  
 Organized December 3, 1948

Member of Rocky Mountain Federation of  
 Mineralogical Societies American Federation of  
 Mineralogical Societies



The Glacial Drifter, Vol. 67, No. 1  
 January 2024



The Purpose of The Topeka Gem & Mineral Society shall be exclusively educational and scientific: (1) to promote interest in geology and the lapidary arts; (2) to encourage the collection and display of rocks, gems, and minerals; (3) to encourage field trips and excursions of a geological, or lapidary nature; and (4) to encourage greater public interest and education in gems and minerals, cooperating with the established institutions in such matters.

Meetings: 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month, September to May, 7:15 pm, First Congregational Church, 1701 SW Collins Ave, Topeka, KS 66604. No meeting in December unless notified of a change. Picnic meetings are held, June, July and August.

Dues: Individual, \$15.00; Couple, \$20.00; Junior (under 18 years of age), \$5.00. Dues are collected in December for the following year. Send dues to: **Millie Mowry, Treasurer, 1934 SW 30<sup>th</sup> St, Topeka, KS 66611.**

[www.TopekaGMS.org](http://www.TopekaGMS.org)

## 2024 OFFICERS AND CHAIRS

President	Brad Davenport	379-8700	Cab of the Month	Donna & Russell Hedge	620-660-1651
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Pres.	David Dillon	221-4315	Field Trip Coord.	Chuck Curtis	286-1790
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres.	Cinda Kunkler	286-1790	Publicity	Donna Stockton	913-645-7677
Secretary	Stacy Haug	1-857-3350	Welcome/Registration	Harold Merrifield	633-9745
Treasurer	Millie Mowry	267-2849	Property	Chuck Curtis	286-1790
Directors	Doria Skinner	231-9347	AFMS Scholarship	Cinda Kunkler	286-1790
	Jim Baer	785-256-2432	Editor/Exchange Editor	Millie Mowry	267-2849
	Shirley Schulz	n/a	Show Chairman	Millie Mowry	267-2849
Historian	Cinda Kunkler	286-1790	Show Dealer Chairman	Dave Dillon	221-4315
Federation Rep	Chuck Curtis	286-1790	Show Secretary	Cinda Kunkler	286-1790
Corporation Agent	Millie Mowry	267-2849	Jr. Rockhound Leader	Dennis Hippe	230-6729
Librarian	Amy Fluke	862-8876	Show Case Coordinator	Cinda Kunkler	286-1790
Web Master	Chad Skinner	640-6617			

Area Code for all numbers is (785).

## EXCHANGE BULLETINS WELCOME

For exchange newsletters contact the club via mailing address listed above or email at [rock2plate@aol.com](mailto:rock2plate@aol.com).  
Permission is granted to reprint articles only if proper credit is given to the author, Glacial Drifter and the date.

### Fodder from the President. JAN/2024



Howdy.

I hope your pipes are flowing free. Whenever the weather gets like this, my mind wanders to the desert south west. Sitting on the ground with my back up against a Saguaro cactus, you can feel them sway with the breeze. One can also listen to the wind through the needles and around the corrugated body. If you are sitting near several of them and the wind is strong enough you get an entire choir of voices. It is unlike anything else I have ever heard. After a half an hour or so, the birds return to their normal activities before you disturbed them. The songs are much different than our Kansas birds. If you are lucky you will start seeing chipmunks, lizards and maybe a mule deer or Javelina or two.

But not today! It's bitterly cold and dismal gray. Cabin fever has set in. Other than going up to the mailbox, I haven't been out of the house in nine days. I don't even go out to fill the bird feeders. I just open the back door and throw out a half gallon onto the ground. The birds don't seem to mind. I haven't even filled the wood box so I listen to the furnace burn Propane.

So, what is sustaining you? A job perhaps. At least it probably is getting you out of the house.

I consider the fact that we are halfway through January already and more pleasant times lie ahead. I have been communicating with Kirby Marker about a promising agate hunt come spring. We are getting pushed deeper into April now. The Wichita Gem & Mineral Show is coming up too.

I have had to cancel some meetings and classes because of the weather. This probably disturbs me more than you. I miss all of you.

At least we will hold our General Meeting on the 26th of Jan. I believe we will be having a Silent Auction as our program.

Well, this has been depressing as hell. So, I will close this out and hope for sunnier days ahead. Maybe I will get a seed catalog in the mail today.

Brad

#### UP Coming General Meeting Programs

**January 26** will be Silent Auction - everyone should bring anything they want to contribute to the club for the auction. It doesn't have to be just rock related. It will give us all time to visit and raise money for the club.

**February 23** will be a talk given by Andy Connally from the Kansas Geological Survey talking to us about Fossils from this region of Kansas. He encourages everyone to bring in fossils from their collection to have them identified regardless of where they got them. Additionally, if anyone wants to donate their extra fossils, the KGS is building fossil teaching kits for schools which he will gladly take our extras to use in building up the kits. Andy is a wonderful speaker. Everyone should come, be sure to bring your fossils!

Suggestions for upcoming meetings are welcome, please let me know if you are interested in a particular subject. Hope so see some of the Juniors attending the meetings - especially in February. Hope you all are staying warm! Please join us, visitors are always welcome! Cinda Kunkler

# TTGMS Event Calendar

JAN. 2024			FEB. 2024		
1	M		1	T	Jr RHDS 6 p.m. at FC Church 1701 SW Collins
2	T		2	F	
3	W		3	S	
4	T		4	S	
5	F		5	M	
6	S		6	T	Brad's Shop Open 6-10 pm
7	S		7	W	
8	M		8	T	
9	T		9	F	Board Meeting Millie's 7 p.m.
10	W		10	S	
11	T		11	S	
12	F		12	M	
13	S		13	T	Brad's Shop Open 6-10 pm
14	S		14	W	
15	M		15	T	
16	T	Brad's Shop Open 6-10 pm	16	F	
17	W		17	S	
18	T		18	S	
19	F		19	M	
20	S		20	T	Brad's Shop Open 6-10 pm
21	S		21	W	
22	M		22	T	
23	T	Brad's Shop Open 6-10 pm maybe	23	F	General Mtg. Gather 7:15 p.m. FC Church 1701 SW Collins
24	W		24	S	
25	T		25	S	
26	F	General Mtg. Gather 7:15 p.m. FC Church 1701 SW Collins	26	M	
27	S		27	T	Brad's Shop Open 6-10 pm
28	S		28	W	
29	M		29	T	
30	T	Brad's Shop Open 6-10 pm maybe			
31	W				

CANCELED

WATCH FOR EMAILS ON WEATHER

## As A Reminder!

If you are wanting to take a class in Silversmithing or wire wrapping you are to call either Jim Baer at 785-256-2432 or email him at [jimbaer73@gmail.com](mailto:jimbaer73@gmail.com), for wire wrapping contact Millie Mowry at 785-267-2849 or email [rock2plate@aol.com](mailto:rock2plate@aol.com) the Monday before class to let them know you will be there.

## JR ROCKHOUND Classes & Reminders

Here are reminders of the next months of classes: **First Congregational Church, 1701 SW Collins Ave., Topeka, KS.** Sign in starting at 6:00 pm and classes starting at 6:30 pm. 1st Thursday of each month.

<https://www.facebook.com/TopekaGMSJuniorRockhounds>

To register for the Junior Rockhounds or any of the classes, email:

Dennis Hippe at: [go.purple@hotmail.com](mailto:go.purple@hotmail.com)



Next Class: February 7th, 2024 Collecting---Cinda Kunkler

Reminder: If you want to earn the patches from the classes that you have attended you need to turn in your homework assignments.

### Dillons Community Reward Program

The Topeka Gem & Mineral Society has enrolled with the Community Rewards with Dillon's Store. You can enroll your shopper's card at: [www.dillons.com/communityrewards](http://www.dillons.com/communityrewards) once you sign up it will take about 7 to 10 days to be activated and our Club to start earning the rewards. At the bottom of your Kroger receipt you will notice "At your request, Kroger is donating to 'your organization name'".

1. You will have to re-register each year.

If you have any other questions email [DCR@dillonstores.com](mailto:DCR@dillonstores.com)



## Book Review From Our Librarian!

In the TTGMS Library there are well over 100 books to choose from That cover a vast array of subjects of lapidary art and geology.

Well worth the read, and can be checked out thru the TTGMS Library by sending an email to Amy at [Jayhawk1072@gmail.com](mailto:Jayhawk1072@gmail.com)



**DUES ARE DUE**

## *Tips from the Past: Polishing Jade* By Art Logue, Whittier Gem & Mineral Society\*

Each time I think I'm getting to be an expert, I run into some material that defies all my efforts. If anyone were to ask what step is the most important in cutting jade, I would answer without question that the selection of the jade is by far the most important. No cutting, grinding, sanding or polishing will make inferior material into anything but an inferior stone. Whether the jade be nephrite or jadeite, quality material free from detracting inclusions works into beautiful gemstones.

You will experience no difficulty in cutting or grinding jade. A hardness of approximately 6.5 is complemented by a toughness that resists chipping and fracturing. It is in the sanding that most jade cabochons go amiss. The fault, which most lapidaries credit to polishing, usually can be traced to sanding errors. No degree of polishing will correct a stone that undercut during sanding. The fibrous texture of jade and variation of hardness are reasons for its reputation as a problem child. I have found that some material can be sanded dry and works up beautifully.

Other material in its final sanding begins to undercut. When this happens, I stop immediately and try a new approach; first, a final sanding on a new piece of 600 cloth. Many times, this will correct the difficulty and, after a few moments, the cab will be smooth, free of undercut or peel, and appear almost polished. In dry sanding jade, I try not to push the cab into the sanding drum, but rather let it ride lightly on the surface of the cloth. I also try to keep the stone cool.

From time to time, I touch it to my cheek and if it is too hot for comfort, I let it cool. If dry sanding fails, I go to wet sanding. If this fails, I go to my faceting machine and finish sanding on a 1200 grit diamond lap. A wooden lap works very well.

I polish on hard leather without a soft backing and use Linde A. I have also found that a wooden lap works very well for polishing. I apply maximum pressure in polishing and let the stone build up heat. If a cab is ready to polish, a few moments does the job.

Above all, work with good jade, and use patience.

\* Reproduced from *The Pegmatite* Vol. LVII, No. 1 (San Diego Mineral & Gem Society, 2003); originally in *The Rockhoulder* (n.d.) via *The Rock Bag* (7/2003). Via: The Pegmatite January 2024



I am pleased to announce that last month, your board installed four members as "Honorary Members". Each AFMS club is allowed five Honoraries. These are folks that usually have spent years with a club helping in many different roles.

First is Millie Mowry.

Millie has been a member for 27 years. She has held the position as 2nd Vice president, Program Chairman, Treasure and Show Treasure. She was our club's Librarian for many years. She has taught Junior Rockhounds classes since we started the program. Millie is also our Corporation Agent. She has been our Secretary, and is our editor. Millie is solely responsible for the monthly "Glacial Drifter".

Second is Will Gilliland.

Will has been a member since 1990. As a Geologist and a Professor of Geology, Will has been our "Go to Guy" for the real facts. He was our Field Trip Coordinator for many years. His knowledge and contacts got us into places few are ever invited to explore. Will has served as a Board member for many years. He has taught dozens of Junior Rockhound classes from the inception of our program.

Third is Harold Merrifield.

Harold has been a member since 1988. He has held the position of 1st Vice President. He has been a club Director. Harold was Show Dealer Chairman. He chaired the Cab of the Month competition and cases. Presently he is our Welcoming/ Registration chairman.

We as a club owe tons of thanks to these three "Rock Stars" Without them we would be a much poorer organization!

Fourth is Andy Connaly.

Andy is an odd ball for this distinction. And I mean this in the most congenial way. Andy is a Geologist with the University of Kansas. He has become a great friend of our club. He has provided programs and a field trip for us. Andy has a knowledge and enthusiasm that shines like the brightest of stars. This honor bestows upon him a lifetime membership. And with this, our newest member is welcomed into our flock.



## Boulangerite From The Siberwiese Mine, Germany

By Eric Fritzsch

I don't usually buy minerals off the internet as I like to see them in person. You see a lot of overpriced minerals on-line. A lot of overhyped specimens, altered colors, misrepresentations, etc. I personally know this dealer and trust his photographs and authenticity. I recently became infatuated with a specimen I saw offered on his E-bay site: a massive piece of boulangerite, a copper antimony sulfosalt. I often enjoy these black ugly minerals as they are often underappreciated and therefore cheap, yet still represent mineralogy very well. I looked at the specimen several different times, however didn't want to spend money on minerals right before Tucson.

Dealers are also under the same financial stresses and Phil was in a selling mood, wanting to generate revenue so he could buy things in Tucson. An offer surprisingly came across my inbox that he had lowered the price a second time; and this time, I was ready to buy it.

Besides being a large and very good example of this lesser-known mineral, I was intrigued by the history and age of the specimen. Not the geological age, but rather the time this specimen was collected and preserved. Later, I was able to track the original owner of the specimen. The specimen is from a long-closed iron mine, that operated from pre-1795 through 1941. Phil had acquired the specimen in a trade from the University of Michigan collection. Along with the specimen came an interesting old label describing the specimen as coming from Oberlahr, Prussia. Today we call this area Germany and Prussia changed to Germany in 1877, so it gives me an idea of how long ago the specimen was collected and labeled. The specimen has been sitting in collections for at least 147 years. The mine area was switched from Oberlahr to Silberwiese around 1827 so this specimen is perhaps even older (197 or more years). That is a long time for a specimen to be preserved and



kept with its label.



Creating records and labels that accompany the specimen are important in preserving its history. Silberwiese means silver meadow and the mine is located in the German state of Rhineland-Palatinate. Postcards and photographs from the 1930s show this place looks very industrial--with few trees, large rock dumps and mills/hoists for mining. Since the mine shut down in 1941, the mine has changed a lot. Collectors who visit the site today have taken pictures of tree overgrowth on the dumps, almost hiding this was once a mining area. Nature is very resilient.

The location is not very well known with specimen preservation and there are only about a dozen specimens from this mine on Mindat. This is sometimes a good way of determining how many such specimens are out there from this mine or area. Many of the specimens on Mindat are small micromounts collected from the dumps and larger specimens are less common. Iron mines are not typically noted as good mineral specimen producing mines, other than a few iron minerals or gangue minerals.

Going back to the specimen's origin, it came from the University of Michigan. This collection was started in 1838, before the Smithsonian, when Douglass Houghton (for whom the city in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan is named and was a renowned geologist) urged the newly created board of Regents to purchase a 4,000-specimen mineral collection from the Austrian Baron Louis Lederer. Douglas Houghton's collection was later purchased by the University, however his collection would unlikely have contained European specimens. It is likely that this specimen was in the Baron Lederer's collection, sold to the University of Michigan in 1838. The University of Michigan collection later was moved to and joined with the Michigan School of Mines (Michigan Tech) collection in Houghton (2015). It is likely that at this time or soon after, the boulangerite was declared excess and traded. The numbers on the specimen tag are likely catalog numbers. The values are fairly low 139 or 344 which would fit in nicely with the theory this is an old University of Michigan label. All this evidence lends me to believe these were part of the initial 1838 purchase of the Lederer collection. When I travel to Tucson in a few weeks, I hope to meet up with a couple experts on these collections to discuss this specimen.

Baron Lederer was the Austrian Consul in New York. He signed a treaty of Commerce and Navigation between the young United States and Austria in 1829 with President Martin Van Buren. Shortly thereafter, a U.S. Consulate was established in Vienna.

A mineral "lederite" was named for him, however Benjamin Silliman discredited the species as titanite in a heated public debate with Charles Shepard, even though Silliman hired Shepard to work at Yale with him. "Lederite" was red brown to dark brown titanite that had a distinct parting, that was erroneously thought to be a cleavage. George Williams finally solved that debate in 1885, publishing his results in American Journal of Science (a magazine established by Silliman, who also had passed on by that point). Alois "Lewis" Joseph Xaver Freiherr (Baron) von Lederer would not see his mineral discredited, dying on 20 December 1842.

(Con't on next page)

### Boulangerite Cont.

The specimen in size is impressive at 9.8 x 6.7 x 4 cm and it weighs over a pound (the specific gravity of boulangerite is 6.2 grams/cubic centimeter, or about 233% heavier than a comparably sized piece of quartz). I like minerals with heft. There are likely other copper sulfide minerals on this specimen, including tetrahedrite, bournonite, and semseyite. Yes, you can find interesting minerals on the internet and this specimen was not very expensive. It helps to keep constantly looking and be ready at the right time in the right place. Without the label and without the research, this specimen is probably worth about what I paid for it. The backstory and thrill of the chase for information make it worth much more to me.

Source: Pick & Shovel Jan 2024

### Cab of The Month for November 2023

Shirley Shultz won Jewelry with her Jade Pendant etched with gold fill. Tied with her was me (Donna Hedge) with a wire wrapped SS Pendant. Cab of the Month first place was also a tie with Brad Davenport and Doria Skinner. His was a Morrisonite Picture Jasper and Doria's was an Imperial Jasper. Larry Hardesty won the Specimen with his Petrified Wood.





The Topeka Gem & Mineral Society  
General Meeting-November 17, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

**Call to Order:** President Brad Davenport calls the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. Harold Merrifield reports there are 30 members present. Four door prizes are given out.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the previous meeting were printed in The Drifter. Chuck Curtis moves to accept the minutes as written, Will Gilliland seconds. Motion carries.

**Treasurer's Report:** Millie reports the club balance. No bills are presented. She is accepting membership dues for 2024 at this time.

**Old Business:** Christmas Dinner is at the Viking on December 1st at 6:00 p.m. We will be in the small party room.

Membership dues are due. Brad asks everyone to take care of this ASAP.

**Communications:** Andy Connolly sent an email regarding the field trip tomorrow at 10:00 at Mount Mitchell Heritage Prairie Park in Wabaunsee County. Kirby Marker is keeping a spot open for the club in late February to March. This will be a glacial till hunt at a brand new location.

**Show:** We will no longer be having a yearly theme for the show. It will simply be listed as "The \_\_\_\_ Annual" Show

**Publicity:** Nothing new to report. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 29th.

**Juniors:** Dennis Hippe has been appointed as the new Junior's Coordinator. He will be taking over the position for Jason Schulz. Brad thanks Jason for his years of service. We need to set up a time for a meeting for teachers - can swap classes, bow out, join in to teach, etc.

**Webmaster:** Brad announces that Chad Skinner has been appointed as the new Webmaster. If anyone has pictures of club events, shows, dinners, etc., Chad would like them sent to him electronically (email, flash drives, etc.) Brad will send Jason's contact information to Chad.

**Shop:** The 8-inch oil saw will be out-of-service until the new parts come. There has continued to be good turnout from club members. There has generally been enough room for everyone to participate.

**Historian:** Nothing new to report.

**Membership:** Yearly membership dues are due. Matt has been advertising the club as much as he can and has 3 people who would like to sign up.

**Time-Sensitive:** There is a field trip scheduled for tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. Christmas dinner will be on the 1st. Brad reminds members to vote on Cab of the Month, Specimen Of the Month, etc.

**New Business:** Coordinators for Lawn & Garden Show asked if we would like to participate at their next show. This could possibly be in the form of a presentation.

Tonight is elections. Chuck is the Chairman of our Nominating Committee and hands out ballots to each member present. All officers have agreed to hold their positions. Anyone who wants to be an officer is encouraged to step up.

Will Gilliland brought in a display on crinoids that is available for members to look at tonight.

**Adjournment:** With nothing further to discuss, a motion is made to adjourn the meeting, Matt seconds, Meeting is adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Submitted by: Stacy Haug, TTGMS Secretary



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